fill gap between indigenous availability and requirement of 7th Five Year Plan Projects.

Reduction in voting age

679. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to reduce the voting age from 21 to 18 years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government are of the view that, having regard to the socio-economic conditions obtaining in our country it is not practicable or advantageous now to lowest the voting age.

Public sector investment in Eastern Region

680. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total public sector investment in the eastern region in general and West Bengal in particular, for setting up of new modern industries todate sice 1962;

(b) the particulars of the Central and centrally-sponsored new industrial units that have come into existence todate since 1962; and

(c) the factors responsible for eastern zone's poor performance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (c) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to investment in Central Public Enterprises in the eastern region. As on 31-3-1985 the investment in central public enterprises in the eastern region stood at Rs. 12176.68 crores as detailed below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the State	Investment in terms of gross-block as on 31.3.1985
Orissa	2997.74
West Bengal	3345.37
Bihar	5833.77
TOTAL :	12176.88

This works out 25.73 per cent of the total investment in central public enterprises in the country as on 31-3-1985, which is quite significant.

(b) Some of the major industrial units that have come up in the public sector (including nationalised units) after 1962 in the Eastern Region are:— Bokaro Steel Plant in Bihar including its expansion units; expansion, modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants including Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur, Eastern Coalfields and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.; units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. at Sindri and Talcher; Hindustan Fertilizer Corporations's Units at Durgapur, Barauni and Haldia; Indian Oil Corporation's Refineries at Barauni and Haldia; National Aluminium Co. Ltd. in Orissa; Sargipali Lead Mines of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. in Orissa; Paradeep Phosphates in Orissa; HAL Ltd.'s Unit in Orissa; Orissa Sands Complex of Indian Rare Earths Ltd.; NTPC Farakka Project in West BGengal etc. In addition, Govt. have nationalised a number of sick units in West Bengal such as Braithwaite & Co. Ltd, Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Jessop & Co. Ltd., NTC Units at West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa etc.

Bid for off-shore oil exploration

681. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government called a meeting of the Indian and foreign companies in May, 1986 for a bid for